

## CHAPTER NO. 146

## SENATE BILL NO. 895

**By Rochelle, Kurita, Williams, Haynes**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 857

By McDonald, Bone, West, Davidson, Hood, Rhinehart, Boyer, Walker, Dunn, Maddox, Fitzhugh

AN ACT To amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 16, Part 5, relative to offenses committed against law enforcement officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 16, Part 5, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

39-16-5\_\_.

(a) It is an offense to knowingly activate and point a laser pointer or other device utilizing a laser beam at a person known to be a law enforcement officer while the officer is in the performance of such officer's official duties with the intent to place such officer in fear of serious bodily injury or death.

(b) In order for subsection (a) to apply:

(1) The law enforcement officer must actually be placed in fear of serious bodily injury or death;

(2) The fear must be real or honestly believed to be real at the time; and

(3) Based upon the facts and circumstances surrounding the defendant's conduct, the fear must be founded upon reasonable grounds.

(c) A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.


SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 3, 1999

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 14th day of May 1999

  
DON CONQUIST, GOVERNOR